

Message Text

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21/13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 /129 W

----- 119844

R 140653Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5648

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4949

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, CH

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN - PRC NEGOTIATIONS: OVERSEAS CHINESE

REF: A. HONG KONG 11359 (NOTAL) B. HONG KONG 11347; C. HONG KONG

1120 (NOTAL); D. KUALA LUMPUR 4537; E. KUALA LUMPUR 3067;

F. KUALA LUMPUR 2684

SUMMARY: GOM IS DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

WITH PRC. MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE FACING THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IS

MALAYSIAN DESIRE THAT PRC PUBLICALLY DISAVOW INTENTION TO ACT

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AS PROTECTING POWER FOR MALAYSIA'S 200,000 STATELESS CHINESE.

OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES ARE NOT AS DIVISIVE AND GIVEN GOM DETERMINATION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS COMPROMISE LANGUAGE MAY BE FOUND IN WHICH PEKING DOES NOT RPT NOT EXPLICITLY DISAVOW INTENTION TO ACT AS PROTECTING POWER. END SUMMARY.

1. IN NOV 10 SPEECH PM RAZAK REAFFIRMED THAT GOM WILL SOON HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC; OBSERVERS NOW EXPECT EARLY 1974 TIMING FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELATIONS. GOM SEES MOVE AS HAVING DOMESTIC POLITICAL BENEFITS IN IMPROVING GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE WITH MALAYSIN CHINESE PRIOR TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS EXPECTED MID - 1974; AND FOREIGN POLICY BENEFITS IN FURBISHING OF GOM'S NON-ALIGNED IMAGE AND PROMOTING GOM NEUTRALIZATION SCHEME FOR SEA.

2. GOM HAD WISHED TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC IN 1973, BUT MAJOR NEGOTIATING PROBLEMS DEVELOPED REGARDING STATUS OF MALAYSIA'S ESTIMATED 200,000 STATELESS CHINESE. GOM POSITION IS THAT THEY ARE RESIDENTS OF MALAYSIA PROTECTED BY LAWS OF MALAYSIA WITH NO LEGAL TIES TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY. PEKING, AS REFLECTED IN VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S SPEECH, HAS SAID IT WILL PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE STATELESS CHINESE. PRC NEGOTIATIONS REPORTEDLY HAVE URGED THAT GOM GRANT THESE STATELESS CHINESE CITIZENSHIP AND THUS REMOVE ROOT CAUSE OF PROBLEM, BUT THIS WOULD POSE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOM WITH GOVERNING PARTY'S (UMNO) CONSERVATIVE WING.

3. THERE IS A BODY OF OPINION WITHIN MALAYSIA AND WITHIN GOM WHICH FEARS THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC MISSION HERE WILL LEAD TO UPSURGE IN CHAUVINISM IN CHINESE COMMUNITY AND REVIVAL OF FEELING PEKING IS ULTIMATE PROTECTOR OF ALL OVERSEAS CHINESE. PEKING'S RELATIVELY HARD LINE ON ISSUE OF PROTECTIVE ROLE FOR STATELESS CHINESE HAS STRENGTHENED THESE FEARS. GOM WANTS CLEAR SIGNAL FROM PRC TO LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY FORSWEARING ANY CLAIM TO THEIR ALLEGIANCE; PRC POSITION HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING AS REGARDS CHINESE WHO ARE MALAYSIAN CITIZEN, BUT HAS SHOWN LITTLE YIELD ON ISSUE OF ACTING AS PROTECTING POWER FOR STATELESS CHINESE.

4. OTHER ISSUE WHICH REPORTEDLY REMAINS OUTSTANDING BETWEEN GOM-PRC IS PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS PRC SUPPORT FOR COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES IN EAST
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AND WEST MALAYSIA. PRC NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REITERATED BANDUNG FORMULA, BUT GOM BELIEVES BANDUNG FORMULA INADEQUATE. SOURCES WITHIN GOM HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT COMPROMISE LANGUAGE CAN BE FOUND TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE, BUT OTHER SOURCES ASSERT PRC, FOLLOWING PATTERN IN BURMA, WILL MANIPULATE DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATION AND PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE GOM.

5. BECAUSE OF THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY BENEFITS NOTED
PARAGRAPH ONE GOM DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE RELATIONS WITH PEKING.
ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE OF STATELESS CHINESE IS UNDOUBTEDLY KEY PROBLEM
SEPARATING TWO GOVERNMENTS; GOM DETERMINATION TO OPEN RELATIONS
WITH PEKING IS STRONG ENOUGH TO LEAD US TO EXPECT THAT
FORMULA WILL BE FOUND WHICH WILL SATISFY BOTH SIDES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GOM FORMIN HAS ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE
FULL TEXT OF PRC VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S SPEECH TO OVERSEAS
CHINESE NOTING INTER ALIA THAT PRC APPROVED OF DECISION TO ADOPT
CITIZENSHIP OF COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND URGING OVERSEAS CHINESE TO
BE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS (EXCERPTS IN SCMP OF OCT 11 ALREADY PASSED
TO THEM). IF CONGEN HAS TEXT PLEASE AIRPOUCH SOONEST ATTENTION
POLITICAL SECTION.
CHESLAW

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Message Attributes

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